

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Currently Amended) An external storage device according to claim 417, further comprising information indicative of the plural areas of the non-volatile semiconductor memory,

the external storage device dynamically changing the sizes of the first and second areas of the non-volatile semiconductor memory on the basis of an instruction of the host computer by a part which rewrites the information indicating of the plural areas of the non-volatile semiconductor memory.

3. – 5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently Amended) An external storage device according to claim 417, wherein the non-volatile semiconductor memory includes plural areas in which a data area is made of a protected data area and a non-protected data area, and

wherein, when the host computer is to access the protected data area, the external storage device performs authentication through an authentication procedure for accessing to the protected data area.

7. (Currently Amended) An external storage device according to claim 417,

wherein the non-volatile semiconductor memory includes an area which stores data of the host computer and an area which stores information on the external storage device,

wherein the area of the non-volatile semiconductor memory which stores the data of the host computer is made of a protected data area and a non-protected data area,

wherein the area of the non-volatile semiconductor memory which stores the information on the external storage device stores location information on the protected data area,

wherein the external storage device dynamically changes the protected data area of the non-volatile semiconductor memory on the basis of an instruction of the host computer by a part which rewrites the location information on the protected data area of the non-volatile semiconductor memory, and

wherein, when the host computer is to access the protected data area, the external storage device performs authentication through an authentication procedure for accessing to the protected data area.

8. (Currently Amended) An external storage device according to claim 417, further comprising a part, which is provided in the connecting part and recognizes the kind of host computer during activation, performing access control on the plural areas of the non-volatile semiconductor memory according to the kind of host computer.

9. (Currently Amended) An external storage device according to claim 417,
the plural areas comprising:

a user data area for storing user data therein; and

a management data area for storing management data therein;

the user data area further comprising said first and second areas, wherein
said first area is a normal area and said second area is a protected area.

10. (Previously Presented) An external storage device according to claim
9, wherein:

the first commands are commands for accessing to the normal area,

the second commands are commands for accessing to the protected area,
and

the first commands for accessing to the normal area and the second
commands for accessing to the protected area are different from each other.

11. (Previously Presented) An external storage device according to claims
10, wherein:

the management data area stores a start address of the protected area; and

the part for controlling the non-volatile semiconductor memory accesses the
protected area when the second command for accessing to the protected area and
an address issued prior to the commands by the host computer coincides with the
start address of the protected area within the management data area and a
protection function of the protected area is disabled.

12. (Previously Presented) An external storage device according to claim 9, wherein:

the management data area stores a start address of the protected area; and

the part for controlling the non-volatile semiconductor memory accesses the protected area when an address issued prior to the commands by the host computer coincides with the start address of the protected area within the management data area.

DI 13. (Previously Presented) An external storage device according to claim 9, wherein:

the part for controlling the non-volatile semiconductor memory carries out authentication of a user, and it disables a protection function of the protected area when the authentication of the user is successful.

14. (Previously Presented) An external storage device according to claim 13, wherein:

the management data area stores a password of the user; and

the part for controlling the non-volatile semiconductor memory carries out the authentication of the user by comparing a password from the host computer to the password stored in the management data area.

15. (Previously Presented) An external storage device according to claim 13, wherein:

the part for controlling the non-volatile semiconductor memory carries out the

authentication of the user when a command from the host computer is a protection disabling command for disabling the protection function for the protected area.

16. (Previously Presented) An external storage device according to claim 13, wherein:

the part for controlling the non-volatile semiconductor memory carries out authentication of the user when the external storage device is turned on.

17. (New) An external storage device connectable to a host computer, comprising:

non-volatile semiconductor memory;

an interface to connect to the host computer; and

a controller to access the non-volatile semiconductor memory in response to a command and an address from the host computer;

wherein said non-volatile semiconductor memory is divided into plural areas;

wherein a first command for accessing a first area among said plural areas of the non-volatile semiconductor memory is different from a second command for accessing a second area among said plural areas of the non-volatile semiconductor memory;

wherein the controller determines whether the command from the host computer is the first command or the second command,

wherein, when the command is the first command, the controller carries out first command processing to a sector of the first area in accordance with the address from the host computer; and

wherein, when the command is the second command, the controller carries out second command processing to a sector of the second area in accordance with the address from the host computer.

18. (New) An external storage device according to claim 17, comprising:
a register which stores the address of the second area of the non-volatile semiconductor memory;

wherein, when the command from the host computer is the first command, the controller determines whether a sector to be accessed by the host computer is within the second area or not by comparing the address from the host computer with the address of the second area stored in the register and carries out the first command processing to a sector in the first area if the sector to be accessed by the host computer does not exist in the second area.
